

(3) To properly conduct negotiations concerning, or obtain authorization for, settlement or disposition of the proceeding, in whole or in part, or stipulations of fact in connection with the proceeding.

(i) *Use in criminal judicial proceedings.* Return information disclosed pursuant to this section may not be used in any criminal judicial proceeding, or any preparations therefor (or in a criminal investigation which may result in such a proceeding), involving the enforcement of a criminal statute, without compliance with the requirements of section 6103(i) (1) or (2) as appropriate. However, the return information may in any event be used for purposes of complying with the requirements of section 6103(i).

(j) *Restrictions.* Return information disclosed to officers and employees of the U.S. Customs Service or to the Department of Justice as provided by this section may not be used or disclosed for any purpose other than to ascertain, or advocate or defend the correctness of, Customs determinations with respect to, any entry in the audits for which the information was requested or in certain actions resulting from the audits as described above. Return information disclosed to officers and employees of the U.S. Customs Service or to the Department of Justice as provided by this section may not be disclosed to any person, including any contractor of the U.S. Customs Service, except as provided by this section, or as otherwise provided by section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code.

[T.D. 8527, 59 FR 11548, Mar. 11, 1994. Redesignated by T.D. 8694, 61 FR 66220, Dec. 17, 1996]

§ 301.6103(m)-1 Disclosure of taxpayer identity information.

(a) *Definition.* For purposes of applying the provisions of section 6103(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, the term *agent* includes a contractor.

(b) *Effective date.* This section is applicable January 6, 2004.

[T.D. 9111, 69 FR 507, Jan. 6, 2004]

§ 301.6103(n)-1 Disclosure of returns and return information in connection with procurement of property and services for tax administration purposes.

(a) *General rule.* Pursuant to the provisions of section 6103(n) of the Internal Revenue Code and subject to the requirements of paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, officers or employees of the Treasury Department, a State tax agency, the Social Security Administration, or the Department of Justice, are authorized to disclose returns and return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) to any person (including, in the case of the Treasury Department, any person described in section 7513(a)), or to an officer or employee of such person, to the extent necessary in connection with contractual procurement of—

(1) Equipment or other property, or

(2) Services relating to the processing, storage, transmission, or reproduction of such returns or return information, the programming, maintenance, repair, or testing of equipment or other property, or the providing of other services, for purposes of tax administration (as defined in section 6103(b)(4)).

No person, or officer or employee of such person, to whom a return or return information is disclosed by an officer or employee of the Treasury Department, the State tax agency, the Social Security Administration, or the Department of Justice, under the authority of this paragraph shall in turn disclose such return or return information for any purpose other than as described in this paragraph, and no such further disclosure for any such described purpose shall be made by such person, officer, or employee to anyone, other than another officer or employee of such person whose duties or responsibilities require such disclosure for a purpose described in this paragraph, without written approval by the Internal Revenue Service.

(b) *Limitations.* For purposes of paragraph (a) of this section, disclosure of returns or return information in connection with contractual procurement of property or services described in such paragraph will be treated as necessary only if such procurement or the

performance of such services cannot otherwise be reasonably, properly, or economically carried out or performed without such disclosure. Thus, for example, disclosures of returns or return information to employees of a contractor for purposes of programming, maintaining, repairing, or testing computer equipment used by the Internal Revenue Service or a State tax agency should be made only if such services cannot be reasonably, properly, or economically performed by use of information or other data in a form which does not identify a particular taxpayer. If, however, disclosure of returns or return information is in fact necessary in order for such employees to reasonably, properly, or economically perform the computer related services, such disclosures should be restricted to returns or return information selected or appearing at random. Further, for purposes of paragraph (a), disclosure of returns or return information in connection with the contractual procurement of property or services described in such paragraph should be made only to the extent necessary to reasonably, properly, or economically conduct such procurement activity. Thus, for example, if an activity described in paragraph (a) can be reasonably, properly, and economically conducted by disclosure of only parts or portions of a return or if deletion of taxpayer identity information (as defined in section 6103(b)(6) of the Code) reflected on a return would not seriously impair the ability of the contractor or his officers or employees to conduct the activity, then only such parts or portions of the return, or only the return with taxpayer identity information deleted, should be disclosed.

(c) *Notification requirements.* Persons to whom returns or return information is or may be disclosed as authorized by paragraph (a) of this section shall provide written notice to their officers or employees—

(1) That returns or return information disclosed to such officer or employee can be used only for a purpose and to the extent authorized by paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) That further inspection of any returns or return information for a purpose or to an extent unauthorized by

paragraph (a) of this section constitutes a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by a fine of as much as \$1,000, or imprisonment for as long as 1 year, or both, together with costs of prosecution;

(3) That further disclosure of any returns or return information for a purpose or to an extent unauthorized by paragraph (a) of this section constitutes a felony, punishable upon conviction by a fine of as much as \$5,000, or imprisonment for as long as 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution;

(4) That any such unauthorized further inspection or disclosure of returns or return information may also result in an award of civil damages against any person who is not an officer or employee of the United States in an amount not less than \$1,000 for each act of unauthorized inspection or disclosure or the sum of actual damages sustained by the plaintiff as a result of such unauthorized disclosure or inspection as well as an award of costs and reasonable attorneys fees; and

(5) If such person is an officer or employee of the United States, a conviction for an offense referenced in paragraph (c)(2) or (c)(3) of this section shall result in dismissal from office or discharge from employment.

(d) *Safeguards.* Any person to whom a return or return information is disclosed as authorized by paragraph (a) of this section shall comply with all applicable conditions and requirements which may be prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service for the purposes of protecting the confidentiality of returns and return information and preventing disclosures of returns or return information in a manner unauthorized by paragraph (a). The terms of any contract between the Treasury Department, a State tax agency, the Social Security Administration, or the Department of Justice, and a person pursuant to which a return or return information is or may be disclosed for a purpose described in paragraph (a) shall provide, or shall be amended to provide, that such person, and officers and employees of the person, shall comply with all such applicable conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed by the Service by regulation, published

rules or procedures, or written communication to such person. If the Service determines that any person, or an officer or employee of any such person, to whom returns or return information has been disclosed as provided in paragraph (a) has failed to, or does not, satisfy such prescribed conditions or requirements, the Service may take such actions as are deemed necessary to ensure that such conditions or requirements are or will be satisfied, including—

(1) Suspension or termination of any duty or obligation arising under a contract with the Treasury Department referred to in this paragraph or suspension of disclosures by the Treasury Department otherwise authorized by paragraph (a) of this section, or

(2) Suspension of further disclosures of returns or return information by the Service to the State tax agency, or to the Department of Justice, until the Service determines that such conditions and requirements have been or will be satisfied.

(e) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section—

(1) The term *Treasury Department* includes the Internal Revenue Service and the Office of the Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service;

(2) The term *State tax agency* means an agency, body, or commission described in section 6103(d) of the Code; and

(3) The term *Department of Justice* includes offices of the United States Attorneys.

(f) *Effective date.* Section 301.6103(n)-1(c) is applicable on March 12, 2003.

[T.D. 7723, 45 FR 65573, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended by T.D. 8271, 54 FR 46383, Nov. 3, 1989; T.D. 8695, 61 FR 66218, Dec. 17, 1996; T.D. 9044, 68 FR 11741, Mar. 12, 2003]

§ 301.6103(p)(2)(B)-1 Disclosure of returns and return information by other agencies.

(a) *General rule.* Subject to the requirements of paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, returns or return information that have been obtained by a Federal, state or local agency, or its agents or contractors, in accordance with section 6103 (the first recipient) may be disclosed by the first recipient to another recipient authorized to re-

ceive such returns or return information under section 6103 (the second recipient).

(b) *Approval by Commissioner.* A disclosure described in paragraph (a) of this section may be made if the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (the Commissioner) determines, after receiving a written request under this section, that such returns or return information are more readily available from the first recipient than from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The disclosure authorization by the Commissioner shall be directed to the head of the first recipient and may contain such conditions or restrictions as the Commissioner may prescribe. The disclosure authorization may be revoked by the Commissioner at any time.

(c) *Requirements and restrictions.* The second recipient may receive only returns or return information as authorized by the provision of section 6103 applicable to such second recipient. Any returns or return information disclosed may be used by the second recipient only for a purpose authorized by and subject to any conditions imposed by section 6103 and the regulations thereunder, including, if applicable, safeguards imposed by section 6103(p)(4).

(d) *Records and reports of disclosure.* The first recipient shall maintain to the satisfaction of the IRS a permanent system of standardized records regarding such disclosure authorization described in paragraph (a) of this section and any disclosure of returns and return information made pursuant to such authorization, and shall provide such information as prescribed by the Commissioner in order to enable the IRS to comply with its obligations under section 6103(p)(3) to keep accountings for disclosures and to make annual reports of disclosures to the Joint Committee on Taxation. The information required for reports to the Joint Committee on Taxation must be provided within 30 days after the close of each calendar year. The requirements of this paragraph do not apply to the disclosure of returns and return information as provided by paragraph (a) of this section which, had such disclosures been made directly by the IRS, would not have been subject to